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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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KHORSANDI PATENT LAW GROUP, A.L.C. 140 S. LAKE., SUITE 312 PASADENA, CA 91101-4710			COSIMANO, EDWARD R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/684,869

Applicant(s) **SW**

BENNETT ET AL.

Examiner

Edward R. Cosimano

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 October 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4,5,7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. Applicant should note the changes to patent practice and procedure:

A) effective December 01, 1997 as published in the Federal Register, Vol 62, No. 197, Friday October 10, 1997;

B) effective November 07, 2000 as published in the Federal Register, Vol 65, No. 54603, September 08, 2000; and

C) Amendment in revised format, Vol. 1267 of the Official Gazette published February 25, 2003.

2. The use of various trademark(s), for example "iShip.com", "iShip", "The Internet Package shipper", "Price It", "Sell It", "Track It", "Ship It", "Track It", "Ship It", "Shipping Tools", "My iShip", "Netscape's Navigator™", "Microsoft Internet Explorer™", in the paragraph:

A) at pages 12, lines 10-13, "'iShip.com", "iShip", "The Internet Package shipper", "Price It", "Sell It", "Track It", "Ship It", "Track It", "Ship It", "Shipping Tools", "My iShip" and ...of their respective owners.";

B) at page 16, lines 4-9, "Users access 1003 ... web browsers include, e.g. Netscape's Navigator™ and Microsoft Internet Explorer™."; and

C) between page 17, lines 11-14, "As depicted in FIG. 5, using ... "iShip.com" ...particular Carrier's web server.";

have been noted in this application. Any trademarks should be capitalized wherever they appear and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

2.1 Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

3. The drawings are objected to because

A) the following errors have been noted in the drawings:

(1) it is noted that as depicted and disclosed a number of figures are in fact separately depicted sections/parts of a single figure spread out over a number of sheets of drawings, that is:

(a) figs. 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d & 10e form a single figure;

- (b) figs. 27a, 27b & 27c form a single figure;
- (c) figs. 33a & 33b form a single figure;
- (d) figs. 36c & 36d form a single figure;
- (e) figs. 37a & 37b form a single figure;
- (f) figs. 39a, 39b & 39c form a single figure;
- (g) figs. 64a-1 & 64a-2 form a single figure;
- (h) figs. 64b-1 & 64b-2 form a single figure; and
- (i) figs. 65a & 65b form a single figure.

Therefore, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.84(u)(1) each of:

- (a) figs. 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d & 10e should be labeled as -10A--, -10B--, --10C--, --10D-- & -10E--, respectively;
- (b) figs. 27a, 27b & 27c should be labeled as -27A--, --27B--, and -27C--, respectively;
- (c) figs. 33a & 33b should be labeled as -33A-- & --33B--, respectively;
- (d) figs. 36c & 36d should be labeled as --36C-- & --36D--, respectively;
- (e) figs. 37a & 37b should be labeled as -37A-- & --37B--, respectively;
- (f) figs. 39a, 39b & 39c should be labeled as -39A--, --39B--, & -39C--, respectively;
- (g) figs. 64a-1 & 64a-2 should be labeled as -64A-1-- & --64A-2--, respectively,
- (h) figs. 64b-1 & 64b-2 should be labeled as --64B-1-- & --64B-2--, respectively; and
- (i) figs. 65a & 65b should be labeled as -65A-- & --65B--, respectively.

(2) The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:

(a) 1071 of fig. 36a as disclosed in the paragraph at page 46, lines 12-19, "At the intersection ... element 1071 ... for which that cell represents the intersection."

(3) The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description:

(a) note below in section (4)(B)(1) of the objection to the disclosure.

(4) as can be seen in fig. 54 and from the context of the paragraph at page 74, lines 21-27, "In creating the display ... browser 258 display device DPI is 96.", it appears from the text contained in box 1256 that either the "YES" and "NO" legends or reference numbers 1257 & 1257 are reversed.

B) the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, therefore, the subject matter of:

(1) claims 12, 14, 19, 21, 33, 35, 40, 42, 54, 56 61 & 62 in regard to the claimed use of an audible announcement;

must be shown in the drawings as required by 37 CFR § 1.83(a) or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s) (note: no new matter should be entered).

3.1 A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3.2 Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

A) applicant must update:

(1) the application data on page 1,
with the current status of each of the referenced applications, e.g., --now abandoned--,
or --now patent #?--, or --which is abandoned and now serial number #?--, etc.

B) as required by 37 CFR § 1.84(p(5)) and 37 CFR § 1.121(e) the specification
lacks an explicit reference to the nature of:

(1) reference legend(s):

(a) 9n, 11n, 12n, 13n, 21a, 1003a, 1003b, 1003c, 1003d, 1024n
& 1027n of fig. 7 as this figure is being described in the paragraphs
between page 18, line 11, and page 19, line 23, "FIG. 7 is a simplified
...which is described in detail below.";

(b) 122, 123a, 123b & 124 of fig. 13 as this figure is described in
the paragraph at page 24, lines 5-16, "If the data entered ... below with
regard to FIG. 26.";

(c) 42 of fig. 10A as this figure is described in the paragraphs
between page 22, line 8, and page 25, line 20, "FIGS 10a through 10e
... setup selling preferences for eCommerce transactions.";

(d) 80 of fig. 10c as this figure is described in the paragraphs
between page 44, line 14, and page 45, line 15, "As depicted in FIG.
34, ... as depicted in FIG. 10c).";

(e) 62 & 80 of fig. 10d as this figure is being described (note the
objection to the references and labeling of figs. 10a-10e, above and
below);

(f) 80 of fig. 10e as this figure is being described (note the
objection to the references and labeling of figs. 10a-10e, above and
below);

(g) 163a, 163b, 163c, 163d, 163e, 165a, 165b, 165c, 165d,
165e, 165f, 165g, 167a & 167b of fig. 19 as this figure is described

between page 26, lines 7-16, "FIG. 19 is a ... the selection button e.g., 160.";

(h) 178 of fig. 21 as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 26, line 20, and page 27, line 8, "If the User clicks the Next button 102 ... User so that the User can process the information 180.";

(i) 238 of fig. 23 as this fig. is described in the paragraph at page 28, lines 2-15, "As depicted in FIG. 23 ... preferences have been saved 239.";

(j) 31b-4 of fig. 24 as this figure is described in the paragraph between page 28, line 29 and page 29, line 10, "Fig. 24 is a ... of a Create a Seller's Link Screen 52.";

(k) 204 of fig. 25 as this figure is described at page 29, lines 6-14, "Once the User has completed ... is asked to enter the Shipping Weight 191a.";

(l) 612 of fig. 27a as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 31, line 26, and page 34, line 14, "In order to identify ... that the weight is not stable 624.";

(m) 1032-1, 1032-2, 1032-3, 1032-4, 1032-5, 1032-6, 1032-7, 1077, 1078, 1101a, 1101b, 1140, 1141, 1142 & 1142a of fig. 28 as this figure is being described in the paragraphs between page 35, line 15, and page 39, line 20, FIG. 28 depicts ... as described above with regard to FIGS. 15 and 26).";

(n) 216 & 217 of fig. 30 as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 39, line 29, and page 41, line 12, "FIG. 30 depicts ... Seller's eCommerce/eAuction item description.";

(o) 214 of figs. 31 & 32 as these figures are described in the paragraphs between page 40, line 24, and page 42, line 19, "In order to create ... PID and its associated set of information.";

(p) 251-2, 251-4, 252-1, 252-2, 252-3, 252-4, 253-1, 253-2, 253-4, 255-1, 255-2, 255-3, 255-4, 256-1, 256-3, 257-2, 257-3, 257-4, 257-5, 257-6, 257-7, 258-2, 258-3, 258-4, 270-1, 270-2 & 270-3 of figs. 33a & 33b as these figures are described in the paragraphs between page 42, line 20, and page 44, line 1, "FIGS. 33a and 33b ... Account User Configuration table 253.";

(q) 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143 of fig. 36a as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 45, line 21, and page 52, line 10, "FIG. 36a depicts an ... the Shipping Location field 1066.";

(r) 1152 of fig. 39a as this figure is described in the paragraph at page 60, lines 15-19, "In the embodiment depicted ... further Shipper Parcel Specifications 1150.";

(s) 1192 of fig. 39c as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 63, line 2, and page 64, line 13, "Next 1179, the system ... in the delivery rate set 1157.";

(t) 359 of fig. 42 as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 67, line 18, and page 68, line 4, "FIG. 42 is a ... Tracking section of the disclosure of the present invention.";

(u) 373 of fig. 43 as this figure is described in the paragraphs at page 68, lines 5-20, "FIG. 43 is a ...10d) in the Buyer Response process.";

(v) 431-1 of fig. 47 as this figure is being described in the paragraph at page 71, lines 11-24, "In an eCommerce embodiment ... 418 to send the payment information to processing.";

(w) 1111 of fig. 48 as this figure is described in the paragraph between page 71, line 25, and page 72, line 10, "In an exemplary simplified Internet ... Expiration Date, and Credit Card Type.";

(x) 426 of fig 51 as this figure is described in the paragraph between page 72, line 24, and page 73, line 4, "In an exemplary eCommerce ... shipped by the particular Shipper/Seller.";

(y) 32b-4, 32b-5, 32b-6 & 32b-7 of fig. 50 as this figure is described in the paragraph at page 73, lines 5-15, "The Seller can view ... shipment 445, or reprint a label 446.";

(z) 1258 of fig. 54 as this figure is described in the paragraph at page 74, lines 21-27, "In creating the display ... browser 258 display device DPI is 96.";

(aa) 2050 & 2051 of fig. 69 as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 84, line 29, and page 87, line 5, "FIG. 69 is a logic flow ... as described above regarding Package Table 28 records.";

(ab) 2081, 2090 & 2097 of fig. 72 as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 88, line 11, and page 94, line 4, "As depicted in FIG. 72, if ... for the packages that are shipped using the CMS.";

(ac) 2101 of fig. 73 as this figure is described in the paragraph at page 94, lines 5-8, "FIG 73 is a graphic ... clicking on the "Track" button 2102.";

(ad) 2120 & 2123 of fig. 77 as this figure is described in the paragraphs at page 95, lines 2-24, "FIG. 77 is a graphic ... record in the list and clicks the "Details" button 2124.";

(ae) 2164 & 2166 of fig. 80 as this figure is described in the paragraph at page 96, lines 11-22, "A registered logged on User ... for that User on Inbound Packages to be monitored."; and

(af) 2123 of fig. 81 as this figure is described in the paragraph between page 96, line 23, and page 97, line 7, "Once the User has input ... line on the screen and clicking the "Delete" button 2170."; and

(2) how the program proceeds after box(es):

(a) 620 of fig. 27B if the inquiry is "NO" in the paragraphs between page 31, line 26, and page 34, line 14, "In order to identify ... that the weight is not stable 624.";

(b) 3026 of fig. 36c as this figure is described in the paragraph at page 56, lines 14-28, "As depicted in Figures 36c through 36d, ... to different parties for various billing options).";

(c) 3042 & 344 of fig. 36e if the inquiry is either "YES" or "NO" as this figure is described in the paragraph at page 57, lines 1-8, "As depicted in FIG. 36e ... to a particular Carrier/Service 3044.";

(d) 1163, 1168, 1169, 1172 & 1175 of fig. 39b if the inquiry is "NO" as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 61, line 12, and page 63, line 7, "Using the Expected Shipping Date ... Carrier/Service in the delivery rate set 1157.";

(e) 1180, 1184, 1187 & 1190 of fig. 36c if the inquiry is "NO" as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 63, line 2, and page 64, line 13, "Next 1179, the system ... in the delivery rate set 1157.";

(f) 1192 of fig. 36c if the inquiry is either "YES" or "NO" as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 63, line 2, and page 64, line 13, "Next 1179, the system ... in the delivery rate set 1157."; and

(g) 2050 of fig. 69 if the inquiry is "Fail" as this figure is described in the paragraphs between page 84, line 28, and page 87, line 5, "FIG. 69 is a logic flow ... as described above regarding Package Table 28 records.".

In this regard, it is noted that merely mentioning either a feature or a number with out mentioning the device or operation or number or feature relies on the drawing to provide support for the disclosure and not to aid in the understanding of the invention, as is the purpose of the drawings (37 CFR § 1.81(a,b)).

C) the following errors have been noted in the specification:

(1) in regard to the labeling of the drawings as required above in section (3)(A)(1), it is noted that the references in the disclosure to the drawings must be consistent as required by 37 CFR § 1.121(e), therefore with in the specification, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.84(u)(1) and 37 CFR § 1.121(e) each of the references to:

(a) figs. 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d & 10e should be -10A--, -10B--, --10C--, --10D-- & -10E--, respectively;

(b) figs. 27a, 27b & 27c should be -27A--, --27B--, and -27C--, respectively;

(c) figs. 33a & 33b should be -33A-- & --33B--, respectively;

(d) figs. 36c & 36d should be --36C-- & --36D--, respectively;

(e) figs. 37a & 37b should be -37A-- & --37B--, respectively;

(f) figs. 39a, 39b & 39c should be -39A--, --39B--, & -39C--, respectively;

(g) figs. 64a-1 & 64a-2 should be -64A-1-- & --64A-2--, respectively,

(h) figs. 64b-1 & 64b-2 should be --64B-1-- & --64B-2--, respectively; and

(i) figs. 65a & 65b should be -65A-- & --65B--, respectively.

In this regard it is noted that the above figs. have been mentioned in the disclosure with in the paragraphs located:

(a) between page 4, line 30, and page 5, line 2, "FIGS 10a through 10e are high ... system eCommerce environment;";

(b) at page 6, lines 19-21, "FIGS 27a through 27c are high ... System in an Internet environment;";

(c) at page 7, lines 7-10, "FIGS 33a and 33b represent ... system eCommerce environment;";

(d) at page 7, lines 21-22, "FIGS 36b through 36e are high ... system uses to calculate a shipping rate;"

(e) at page 7, lines 26-29, "FIGS 37a and 37b represent ... system eCommerce environment;"

(f) at page 8, lines 3-6, "FIGS 39a through 39c are high ... System in an Internet environment;"

(g) at page 10, lines 11-14, "FIGS. 64a-1, 64a-2, 64b-1 and 64b-2 are ... system eCommerce environment.";

(h) at page 10, lines 15-18, "FIGS. 65a and 65b represent ... system eCommerce environment.";

(i) page 12, lines 2-9, "A portion of the disclosure ... FIGS 10a through 10e, ... reserves all copyright whatsoever.";

(j) between page 22, line 8, and page 29, line 10, "FIGS 10a through 10e ... a Create a Seller's Link Screen 52.";

(k) between page 31, line 26, and page 34, line 14, "In order to identify ... that the weight is not stable 624.";

(l) page 42, lines 25-29, "FIGS. 33a and 33b ... Site table 260, and Site table 270.";

(m) between page 44, line 14, and page 45, line 15, "As depicted in FIG. 34, ... as depicted in FIG. 10c).";

(n) between page 55, line 21, and page 57, line 8, "FIGS 36b through 36e ... to the particular Carrier/Service 3044.";

(o) between page 57, line 9, and page 58, line 13, "In an eCommerce embodiment ... on the display monitor of the Buyer's computer 8-2.";

(p) at page 58, lines 14-20, "Whether or not the Buyer/Seller ... the purchase and shipping of the item.";

(q) between page 59, line 26, and page 65, line 3, "FIGS 39a through 39C are ... are performed by one or more of the NOC Servers 20a-21z.";

(r) at page 66, lines 11-15, "It should be noted that, ... relation to FIGS 39a through 39c.";

(s) between page 67, line 1, and page 69, line 1, "FIG. 41 is a ... Buyer Shipping Information Collection screen (61, FIG. 10d).";

(t) at page 71, lines 2-10, "Once the Shipper selects ... and information for the Selected Carrier.";

(u) between page 71, line 11, and page 73, line 26, "In an eCommerce embodiment ... the Seller and as finally selected by the Buyer.";

(v) between page 77, line 26, and page 78, line 24, "Returning to the exemplary ... can be delivered via the carrier (74, FIG. 10e).";

(w) between page 79, line 5, and page 80, line 23, "FIGS. 64a-1, 64a-2, 64b-1 and 64b-2 ... displays the Shipping screen to the Seller 530."; and

(x) between page 80, line 24, and page 81, line 9, "FIGS 65a and 65b represent a ... Bill contact name 26-15, and Bill address 1 261-16.".

(2) as can be seen in fig. 27a and from the context of the paragraph between page 32, line 26, and page 33, line 4, "Continuing with FIGS 27a through 27c, ... interface 613. Otherwise, the user may input the weight 613 in the Weight field 1051 as depicted in e.g., FIG. 26", at line 7 of this paragraph "weight 613" should be -weight 612--.

(3) as can be seen in fig. 28 and from the context of the disclosure at page 37, lines 21-26, "Sorted, valid delivery times ... buttons 1100a and 1100b respectively. If an up or down button (1100a and 1100b respectively) ... Array display area 1096.", at lines 2 & 3 of this paragraph "1100a and 1100b" should be -1101a and 1101b--.

(4) the description of figs. 33a & 33b in the paragraphs between page 42, line 20, and page 44, line 1, "FIGS. 33a and 33b ... Account User Configuration table 253.", does not correspond to what is depicted in these figs.

(5) the description of figs. 36c & 36d in the paragraph at page 56, lines 14-28, "As depicted in Figures 36c through 36d, ... to different parties for various billing options).", does not correspond to what is depicted in these figs. in regard to step 3026, since at one point the "YES" and "NO" legends appear to be mislabeled, note lines 2-3 of this paragraph and lines 8-10 of this paragraph.

(6) as can be seen in fig. 39a, and from the context of the paragraph at page 60, lines 15-19, "In the embodiment depicted ... messages 153 ... further Shipper Parcel Specifications 1150.", at line 5 of this paragraph "153" should be -1153--.

(7) as can be seen in fig. 54 and from the context of the paragraph at page 74, lines 21-27, "In creating the display ... browser 258 display device DPI is 96.", at line 7 of this paragraph "258" should be -1258--.

D) the subject matter of:

(1) claims 12, 14, 19, 21, 33, 35, 40, 42, 54, 56 61 & 62 in regard to the claimed use of an audible announcement;

lacks antecedent basis within the specification as required by 37 CFR § 1.75(d1).

Appropriate correction is required.

5. The specification and drawings have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification or drawings. Applicant should note the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.74, § 1.75, § 1.84(o,p(5)), § 1.121(a)-1.121(f) & § 1.121(h)-1.121(i).

6. Claims 12, 14, 19, 21, 33, 35, 40, 42, 54, 56 61 & 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6.1 The subject matter of:

A) claims 12, 14, 19, 21, 33, 35, 40, 42, 54, 56 61 & 62 in regard to the claimed use of an audible announcement;

lacks antecedent basis within the specification as required by 37 CFR § 1.75(d1).

6.2 For the above reason(s), applicant has failed to particularly point out what is regarded as the invention.

7. Claims 1-63 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over:

A) claims 1-72 of copending Application No. 09/680,649; or

B) claims 1-89 of copending Application No. 09/680,654; or

C) claims 1-6 of copending Application No. 09/684,014; or

D) claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 09/684,861; or

E) claims 1-21 of copending Application No. 09/684,865; or

F) claims 1-53 of copending Application No. 09/684,866; or

G) claims 1-31 of copending Application No. 09/684,010; or

H) claims 1-57 of copending Application No. 09/685,077; or

I) claims 1-58 of copending Application No. 09/685,078.

This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

7.1 The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the referenced copending application and would be covered by any patent granted on that copending application since the referenced copending application and the instant application are claiming common subject matter, as follows:

A) in a computer network system comprising a central computer/server connected to a number of user/client computers and configure/programmed to provide various interactive shipping services, such as rating, rate comparison and tracking for multiple carriers to the users in response to the requests of users sent to the server from the client computers via the network.

Art Unit: 3629

It is noted that the information, whether it is shipping rate date, rate comparison data, tracking data, etc. or how the requested information is displayed to the user does not affect the operation of the basic system as recited in each of the identified application, hence the type of information/data is considered to be non-functional descriptive material. Nonfunctional descriptive material cannot render nonobvious an invention that would have otherwise been obvious. Cf. *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (when descriptive material is not functionally related to the substrate, the descriptive material will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability). Common situations involving nonfunctional descriptive material are:

- a computer that differs from the prior art solely with respect to nonfunctional descriptive material that cannot alter how the machine functions (i.e., the descriptive material does not reconfigure the computer), or
- a process that differs from the prior art only with respect to nonfunctional descriptive material that cannot alter how the process steps are to be performed to achieve the utility of the invention.

7.2 The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

7.3 A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Art Unit: 3629

7.4 Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8. 35 U.S.C. § 101 reads as follows:

"Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefore, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title".

8.1 Claims 43-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the invention as claimed is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

8.1.1 The instant claims recite a system/device, (claims 43-63), which has a practical application in the technological arts, and which does not merely define either a computer program, a data structure, non-functional descriptive material, (i.e. mere data) or a natural phenomenon. Hence, the instant claims merely define device that contains a series of steps that could be but are not necessarily to be performed on a computer.

8.1.2 It is further noted that applicant has not recited a specific machine since the operations recited in the claim are merely to illustrate the operations of the instant invention since these operations are not in fact implemented by a processor/computer. Hence, applicant envisions the invention as recited in claims 43-63 as a disembodied storage device, i.e. memory, that stores a computer program as a non-functional data structure. Such a disembodied storage device is not a specific machine because:

A) it is not associated with a computer in such a way as to cause the computer to operate in a specific manner, (note In re Beauregard 35 USPQ2d 1383 (CAFC 1995) and the associated claims of U.S. Patent 5,710,578); and

B) a memory alone can not perform the functions recited within the claims.

Therefore, the recited disembodied storage device, which itself can not perform the functions recited within the claims as the invention, is inoperative and lacks utility for the purpose of the invention.

8.1.3 In view of the above, the invention recited in claims 43-63, merely describes an abstract idea of a disembodied storage device, i.e. memory, that stores a computer program as

Art Unit: 3629

a non-functional data structure, since a disembodied storage device by itself can not produce a concrete and tangible result by performing the functions recited within the claims as the invention (State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group Inc. 47 USPQ2d 1596 (CAFC 1998)). Hence, claims 43-63 do not have a claimed practical application, since the disembodied storage device is inoperative and therefore lacks utility for the purpose of the invention.

8.1.4 Nonfunctional descriptive material cannot render nonobvious an invention that would have otherwise been obvious. Cf. *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (when descriptive material is not functionally related to the substrate, the descriptive material will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability). Common situations involving nonfunctional descriptive material are:

- a computer that differs from the prior art solely with respect to nonfunctional descriptive material that cannot alter how the machine functions (i.e., the descriptive material does not reconfigure the computer), or
- a process that differs from the prior art only with respect to nonfunctional descriptive material that cannot alter how the process steps are to be performed to achieve the utility of the invention.

8.1.5 Hence, claims 43-63 are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

9.1 Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22-25, 28-35, 43-46 & 49-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by either PRNewswire release from Tulsa Oklahoma (herein after TULSA) or Thiel (5,699,258).

9.2 Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22-25, 28-35, 43-46 & 49-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by PRNewswire release from Tempe Arizona (herein after TEMPE).

9.3 Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22-25, 28-35, 43-46 & 49-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Barton (2002/0022983).

9.4 In regard to claims 1-4, 7-14, 22-25, 28-35, 43-46 & 49-56, TULSA or TEMPE or Barton ('983) discloses an internet based shipping system that comprises properly programmed server and client systems to accept rating related information from users and then return to the user from the server the shipping rate for a number of different carriers. The determined rate

Art Unit: 3629

for each of the carriers is then provided to the user so that the user may select the carrier that best suites the needs of the user. Further, the TULSA system permits the user track the item being shipped.

9.4.1 In regard to claims 1-4, 7-14, 22-25, 28-35, 43-46 & 49-56, Thiel ('258) discloses a networked based shipping system that comprises properly programmed central computer/server and client shipping systems to accept rating related information from users and then return to the user from the server the shipping rate for a number of different carriers. The determined rate for each of the carriers is then provided to the user so that the user may select the carrier that best suites the needs of the user. Further, the Thiel ('258) system permits the user track the item being shipped. Further, since:

A) the internet is a communications network as is the wireless network of Thiel ('258), and

B) the claims fail to recite sufficient structure so at to distinguish a particular type of communications network,

one of ordinary skill at the time the invention would recognize the two separate types of networks as functionally equivalent. Nonfunctional descriptive material cannot render nonobvious an invention that would have otherwise been obvious. Cf. In re Gulack, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (when descriptive material is not functionally related to the substrate, the descriptive material will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability). Common situations involving nonfunctional descriptive material are:

- a computer that differs from the prior art solely with respect to nonfunctional descriptive material that cannot alter how the machine functions (i.e., the descriptive material does not reconfigure the computer), or

- a process that differs from the prior art only with respect to nonfunctional descriptive material that cannot alter how the process steps are to be performed to achieve the utility of the invention.

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3629

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

(c) Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

10.1 Claims 5, 6, 15-21, 26, 27, 36-42, 47, 48 & 57-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either PRNewswire release from Tulsa Oklahoma (herein after TULSA) or Thiel (5,699,258) or PRNewswire release from Tempe Arizona (herein after TEMPE) or Barton (2002/0022983) as applied to claims 1-4, 7-14, 22-25, 28-35, 43-46 & 49-56 and further in view of an obvious modification.

10.1.1 In regard to claims 5, 6, 15-21, 26, 27, 36-42, 47, 48 & 57-63 neither TULSA nor Thiel ('258) nor TEMPE nor Barton ('983) disclose comparing the delivery times a number of carriers. However, it is respectfully noted that:

A) the user of the systems of either TULSA or Thiel ('258) or TEMPE or Barton ('983) may be more concerned with when the package may arrive at it's destination due to some time related requirements rather than spending the least amount of money to have the package shipped; and

B) most carriers offer over night or next day or two days services;

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made that the user of the systems of either TULSA or Thiel ('258) or TEMPE or Barton ('983) could also considered the delivery times when selecting a carrier.

11. In regard to the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 10, 2001, it is noted that the 15 U.S. Patent Applications listed were not publicly known before the filing date of the

Art Unit: 3629

instant application, that is October 06, 2000, therefore these applications have been considered only for the purposes of double patenting.

12. The examiner has cited prior art of interest, for example:

A) either Picione (4,495,581) or Barns-Slavin et al (5,117,364) or Solondz et al (5,602,742) disclose rating an item to be shipped for number of different classes and carriers based on user input values in order to determine the lowest shipping rate.

B) Nomura (JP 05-276353) discloses charging the end user for service provided over a network.

C) either Levitsky et al (6,466,948) or Carroll et al (6,470,327) disclose rating an item to be shipped for number of different classes and carriers based on user input values.

13. The shorten statutory period of response is set to expire 3 (three) months from the mailing date of this Office action.


14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Cosimano whose telephone number is (703) 305-9783. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30am to 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss, can be reached on (703)-308-2702. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

14.1 The fax phone number for UNOFFICIAL/DRAFT FAXES is (703) 746-7240.

14.2 The fax phone number for OFFICIAL FAXES is (703) 872-9306.

14.3 The fax phone number for AFTER FINAL FAXES is (703) 872-9306.

01/05/04


Edward R. Cosimano
Primary Examiner A.U. 3629